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HOUSE OF HOPE

As kids keep dying, North Siders try to transform a vacant school into a youth center

By Susan Du

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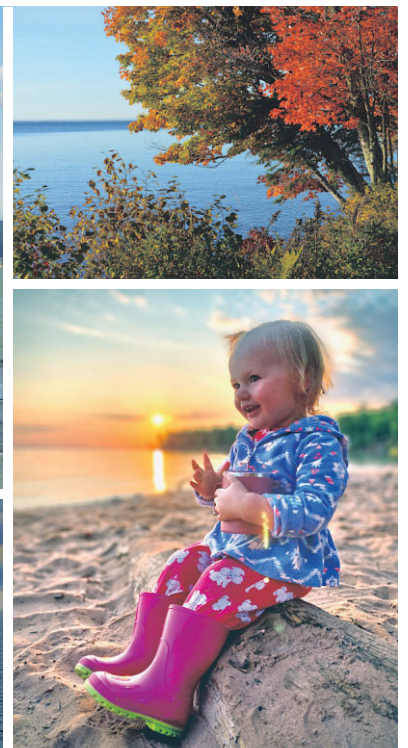
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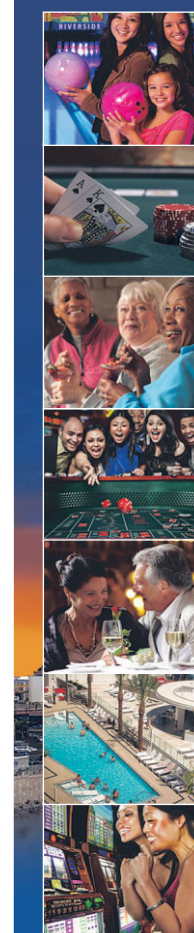
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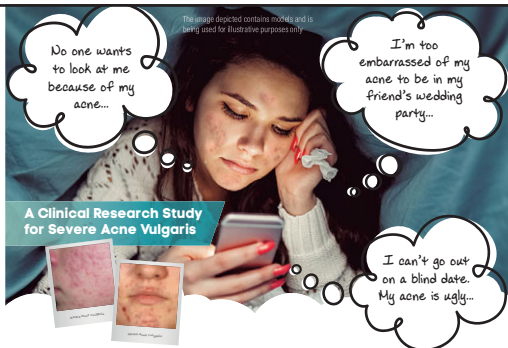
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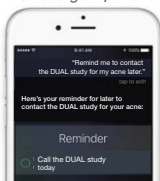
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THE SHORTLIST



Trump truck parade circled Duluth mayor's house at citypages.com

ALEX KORMANN, STAR TRIBUNE

THE STAT SHEET

13

Employees at local restaurants in quarantine after Trump event

1,200

3M seizures and raids to confiscate counterfeit N95 masks

210,000

Americans killed by COVID-19 so far

900

Jobs being eliminated by Fairview

“Our dog loves rabbit terds.”

Reader Mark Hegstad responds to “Hero dog survives 11 days in the Boundary Waters” at citypages.com.

COVID CARAVAN

CORONAVIRUS CASES tied to the White House are adding up: White House communications aide Hope Hicks, former White House counselor Kellyanne Conway, and former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie are among the 11 infected as of Tuesday morning, and several members of the press corps have tested positive as well. Trump, meanwhile, is out of the hospital; he made a chaotic, maskless return to the White House that CNN called “dramatic and reckless” and gave a “bizarre and misleading” speech about the illness. He also tweeted that people don’t need to fear the virus—which, again, has killed more than 210,000 Americans since March.

POPULAR STORIES

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Lakeville school district, parents clash over **BLACK LIVES MATTER** posters in classrooms

COVID AIR

Republican reps caught Delta flight home after Trump exposure

In case you haven't heard, the president has COVID-19.

President Donald Trump and the first lady both tested positive for coronavirus on Thursday, just a day after his rally of 3,000-plus people in Duluth.

Three U.S. reps from Minnesota in particular have reason to think carefully about their movements directly before and after the rally. Republican Congressmen Pete Stauber, Tom Emmer, and Jim Hagedorn all traveled with Trump to and from the rally on Air Force One.

On his reelection campaign Facebook page, Hagedorn says it was an "honor" to spend the day with Trump, his colleagues, and U.S. Senate candidate Jason Lewis.

The three congressmen also came home from Washington, D.C. on a Delta flight Friday night—one day *after* the president tested positive.

According to state and national health agencies, anyone knowingly exposed to someone with COVID-19 is supposed to

self-quarantine for 14 days, even if an initial test comes up negative.

In an email to the Star Tribune on Friday night, Delta spokesperson Gina Laughlin detailed the airline's cleaning, social distancing, and mask-wearing policies, and said the plane was less than 40 percent full.

There was allegedly a "conversation with passengers" about the congressmen's presence, after which nobody left the aircraft in protest.

But an anonymous traveler from Washington, D.C. told the paper there had been no such conversation, and that if he and his fiancée had been given the option to get off the plane, they would have.

Another Delta spokesperson, Anthony Black, told the Associated Press on Saturday that he didn't know exactly what the passengers were or weren't told, but confirmed the aircraft was held for about an hour and a half before it was cleared to fly. Delta, he said, was still reviewing the matter to see if it was handled properly.

All three congressmen (and Delta) have been catching heat for this already. Laura Cederberg, a former aide to former Gov. Mark Dayton, tweeted on Saturday that she was on the plane, and wasn't exactly impressed.

"How was it the passengers' role to know who all is on flight? ...Delta did and let them ignore these policies," she wrote.

The Republicans all sent out separate statements over the weekend saying they'd been cleared by Congress's attending physician before the flight. Hagedorn has been repeatedly sounding off on his Facebook page, claiming he and his colleagues did everything by the book.

"This article is fake," he said of the Star Tribune report. He claimed that he, Emmer, and Stauber were never in "close contact" with Trump (that is, within six feet for 15 minutes), and that they'd tested negative before the flight.

Neither Hagedorn nor Emmer responded to interview requests, but Stauber sent a



FACEBOOK

statement saying he was "disappointed with the very public and clearly partisan shaming" being carried out by some of his Minnesota colleagues.

Meanwhile, the Minnesota Department of Health has advised anyone who attended the Duluth rally or associated events to get tested right away.

"Anyone who was a direct contact of President Trump or known COVID-19 case needs to quarantine and should get tested," a statement released Friday said. "It is important to understand that quarantine for 14 days is necessary regardless of test results."

According to the department, 104,799 people in Minnesota had tested positive for COVID-19 as of Monday afternoon, and 2,083 had died. —HANNAH JONES



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'YOU SOLD US OUT'

On August 26, as police cornered a homicide suspect on Nicollet Mall, he raised a gun to his head and pulled the trigger in front of a group of teenagers.

Many of those young people used to frequent the Teen Tech Center, a creative alcove in downtown's Central Library. Students would go every day after school to read, screen-print, use the beat machine, and hang out. There's nothing like it on the North Side, but the Teen Tech Center's just a 40-minute bus ride away.

After COVID-19 shut it down, young people were left wandering Nicollet Mall, giving some a front-row seat to the suicide and its aftermath.

When social media falsely accused cops of the shooting, young people flooded into downtown to loot and vandalize. Mad Dads, a Mother's Love, and other street outreach outfits tried to quell the rumors. But the truth didn't matter at that point.

"I was seeing a whole bunch of posts like, 'Everybody's going downtown!'" says Jania Kloepfel, 20, a recent graduate of Patrick Henry High School. "There's so much dopamine when you see everyone else do it," she explains. "To partake in something that we've never done before, it's like a big opportunity for us."

Kloepfel blames the looting on a pent-up summer in which the closure of schools, rec centers, and libraries left teens mad-deningly bored with nothing to do and nowhere to be.

"The biggest myth about teenagers is that we just sit on the phone," she says. "That's not really true. We get tired of looking at our phones, tired of watching TV. We want to actually get out and do things."

Just in case unrest re-flared the next night, Minneapolis declared a state of emergency and a curfew. Anyone caught outside after 8 p.m. could be arrested.

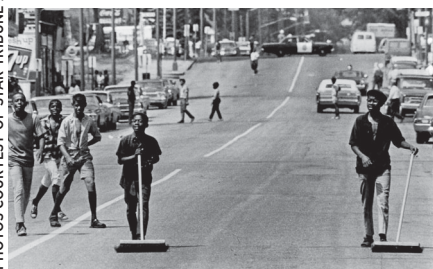
Nevertheless, dozens of North Side residents gathered for a pre-planned meeting in front of the Gordon Center, a vacant Minneapolis Public Schools building at North 16th and Queen Avenues. More than 400 people have been shot and 64 killed this year to date. A large contingent of Black mothers believe a youth center is needed more than ever. They've long eyed the Gordon Center as the ideal site, but county, city, and school board officials had other plans.

Hennepin County Commissioner Irene Fernando wanted it to be a 50-bed Salvation Army women's shelter instead. The City Council, including Ward 5's Jeremiah Ellison, approved the permits. By August, the Minneapolis School Board was poised to sell the building for \$1, making the shelter all but a done deal.

house of hope

As kids keep dying, North Siders try to transform a vacant school into a youth center

BY SUSAN DU



PHOTOS COURTESY OF STAR TRIBUNE AND MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Residents were vigorously opposed. A Mother's Love went door-knocking in a multi-block radius of the Gordon Center and found no one knew about the proposal. The Northside Residents Redevelopment Council—the official neighborhood association—filed an injunction to halt the process.

Council member Ellison showed up. Elected in 2017 on the promise "to imagine a future for the North Side authored by North Siders," he apologized for poor public engagement and encouraged constituents to lay out their concerns. "I don't at all take skepticism of this project as, like, an attack on homeless women," he assured them.

Frustrated residents pulled no punches.

There were already three homeless shelters within a mile of the Gordon Center, yet the North Side had been without a sanctuary for at-risk youth since the 1980s, they said. Many community-led proposals for the Gordon Center had been rejected over the years. Next door, Willard Park was one of the only places young children could play. A youth center would invest in the future, while a bare-bones emergency shelter would merely bandage a broken theory of investment in north Minneapolis.

Once again, officials were telling North Siders what they needed rather than letting them choose their own destiny, residents argued.

Many of Minneapolis's Black community leaders grew up at the Way, which closed in the 1980s and has never been replaced.

"Our children are dying!" declared Cathy Spann, executive director of the Jordan Area Community Council and a 2017 candidate for City Council. She said she recently found a stray bullet lodged in her son's mattress after an overnight shooting. "That's what we're trying to tell you. A 17-year-old just got shot. I need to know what you're gonna do!"

"You don't know what your position is," admonished Cheryl Anderson of A Mother's Love, who announced she was running for Ellison's seat. "You sold us out, Jeremiah!"

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Visibly shaken, Ellison lashed back, “What I don’t like is this conflation of criminality and the homeless. That is the thing that I have the problem with. That is what I’m hearing from you.”

Objections erupted from residents who felt intentionally misunderstood. Ellison did not respond for comment about their desire for a youth center.

Within a week, Hennepin County tabled the shelter plans. It felt like a big win for proponents of a youth center, even if it just meant they could now advance to the starting line. Rejecting an unpopular development was one thing. Constructing a better alternative would take more work, community buy-in, and money.

They’re pushing forward, buoyed by hope that the city’s renewed awareness of racial injustice in the wake of George Floyd would translate into concern for the rising body count of north Minneapolis children.

THE WAY

In 1966, young people frustrated by the lack of opportunities in north Minneapolis set scattered fires and broke windows along Plymouth Avenue. The following year, teenage girls got into a fight at the Aquatennial Torchlight parade in downtown Minneapolis. Police threw them to the pavement. A boy who complained was also beaten. A Plymouth Avenue march against police brutality clashed with riot police. A cop clubbed a pregnant woman in the stomach, causing a miscarriage. Protesters torched Jewish businesses and firebombed the home of alderman Joe Greenstein.

Spike Moss, an outspoken young freedom fighter, held whites responsible for backing Black people into a corner.

“Brick throwing ain’t nothing,” he told a group of clergy in 1967. “You wait two or three years while this young generation comes along. They see that if you want anything, you got to take it. This is a new time. You gotta face up to it.”

Moss wasn’t just talk. He co-founded the Way Opportunities Unlimited Inc., which would show kids “the way out, the way to a new world, the way to a new life.” The owner of a fish market on Plymouth Avenue donated a building, and Greater Twin Cities United Way funded 90 percent of the budget.

There were other youth services in the area, including a Boys and Girls Club, but the Way addressed a cultural void by teaching Black kids about their lineage of greatness, recalls Sen. Bobby Joe Champion (DFL-Minneapolis), who grew up there.

Macalester Prof. Mahmoud El-Kati taught Black history, beginning in Africa with pyramids and the birth of mathematics. They bused to Washington, D.C. They organized locally to make Martin Luther King’s birthday a holiday. They understood it was their civic responsibility to march



GLEN STUBBE/STAR TRIBUNE, CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS COLLECTION

on behalf of the community.

Bobby Lyle taught music classes at the Way. A young Prince Rogers Nelson rehearsed there. The drum corps named for Leo Johnson, a Black school resource officer who died in a car accident, traveled all over the country.

Black icons like Sugar Ray Leonard and Muhammad Ali showed up at the Way to encourage young people to do their best. At fashion shows, Black models taught teenagers the importance of dressing to make an impression, how to walk with confidence, and how to make a speech.

The Way organized Valentine’s Day dances, Halloween parties, and Christmas toy giveaways. Everybody was poor, but the Way encouraged kids to view poverty as a temporary condition. Summer jobs could be had setting up Juneteenth and other festivals. When they visited college campuses, they were told to imagine themselves belonging there.

“So when you look at the youth unrest, where can they go where they feel like their needs can really be met?” Champion asks. “Who’s talking through what true protest really means and how the demands that you’re making have got to be connected to mobility of your community, not looting?”

Top: Mahmoud El-Kati, Verlana Matey-Keke, and Spike Moss were some of the original founders of the Way, which is now the 4th Precinct police station. **Bottom:** Groundbreaking for the Way.

In 1984, the United Way withdrew its financial support, accusing the youth center of mismanaging money. According to the nonprofit, the Way failed to hire staff for which it had funds and kept poor records of who was using its services. Over the Way’s objections that the inspection came during a reorganization period, more than \$260,000 worth of grants were disseminated to other community groups. The youth center closed.

To this day, the Way’s core supporters believe the United Way dredged up false allegations to distance itself from Moss, who’d raised hell after Minneapolis cops killed unarmed Sal Saran Scott during a botched robbery sting.

Moss called it murder. Relentlessly, he asserted that white supremacy permeated society. People told him he was stuck in the 1960s. Police Chief Tony Bouza called him an “apologist for bums.”

Today, Moss maintains that he paid the United Way more than \$900 a year to man-

age the books while he focused on what he knew – running the Way’s programs and visiting three prisons a week, telling young inmates to do no harm once they got out. “They didn’t like me standing up against injustice. They didn’t like me standing up against police brutality,” he says of the Way’s defunding.

After 35 years, the youth center has never been replaced. It’s now the 4th Precinct police station.

“The community suffered in every way,” says Moss, whose 27-year-old grandson Kevin Beasley was shot and killed this year. “There was nobody to guide these young men with troubled views.”

“When [George] Floyd died, they raised all that money and gave it to [activists] that don’t even live here. They never came and asked the Black community about what they need or want. Thirty million dollars, they never even think to ask. As long as you keep dismissing us, that’s what keeps us where we are.”

In the early 1990s, Minneapolis gave neighborhood associations millions to fund projects of their choosing. Most of that money went into repairs for white homeowners, according to a 1994 University of Minnesota study. Years later, City Council Member Jackie Cherryhomes was voted out of office after it came out that \$34,000 from the Neighborhood Revitalization Program went to rehab her 5th Ward home.

In the 2000s, the city distributed another round of NRP money, this one significantly smaller. The Northside Residents Redevelopment Council gambled on ill-fated condos and the perpetually vacant King Shopping Center on Plymouth Avenue, which had to compete with open-air drug dealing in the parking lot. The U of M ultimately bought the building for its urban research center.

Part of the problem was that volunteer neighborhood boards lacked the skills to lead development, says NRRC Properties Chair Gayle Smaller. He says NRRC never prioritized replacing the Way because north Minneapolis had so many other needs, including helping elderly people repair and keep their homes. Even now, he doesn’t want to rush into saying whether NRRC will help secure the Gordon Center for a youth center.

“You have half the community saying they want a youth center, but then you have a lot of people in the community saying that they want some form of commercial, some form of senior housing, so there’s tons of different voices around what we want to use that building for if the district, now that they’ve expressed their willingness, will sell it.”

A STUBBORN VACANCY

A few days after Hennepin County canceled its homeless shelter plan, Lisa Clemons and DonEsther Morris of A Mother’s Love



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EMILY UTNE

laid out their vision for the youth center they want to replace it.

The longtime street outreach workers are clad in bright pink. Their tiny office is wallpapered with the names of a decade's worth of homicide victims, organized by year. There are asterisks next to the ones killed by police—about 3 percent. To the women of A Mother's Love, each loss of life ripples through the community. Behind many of the names are even more children currently growing up without the support of one of their parents.

Clemons, a retired police officer, wants a youth center that will cater specifically to the "throwaway group" of teens and young adults creating most of the trouble in the community. Violence isn't always gang- or drug-related, she explained. A lot of it stems from social media fights, adults escalating conflict, and grudges that reignite after people are released from prison because no one worked on them there.

"Right now we're boots-on-the-ground. We make these contacts in parking lots, on street corners, and that's not lasting," she says. "Even though they recognize us, they know us, they stop and talk to us, we're not changing their lives in that short contact. We want those contacts to be longer. We want those contacts to build trust that can't be broken. They have to know we're here for the long haul, not for this temporary moment of intervention."

A Mother's Love wants a building with a history component, an African-American museum rounded out with Asian- and Latin-American history to reflect the diversity of

Seventeen-year-old Astrid Elizabeth Loor Espin, a north Minneapolis resident, brought a youth perspective to neighborhood plans for the Gordon Center.

north Minneapolis. They want counseling for crime victims so families don't have to chase down funeral arrangements in their moment of crisis. They could have a food shelf, a community kitchen, sports, arts, and anything else that a patchwork of existing North Side youth organizations might want to contribute. It should be safe, comfortable, and free, with everything geared toward telling young people that their lives matter, and not only when one is taken by police.

The closest analogy is the 8218 Truce Center in St. Paul, a Black history museum and mentorship program. The director there is auto dealer Miki Lewis, who also works with the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office to help young people leave gangs.

The Truce Center costs him \$30,000 a year. He keeps it afloat by donating all the proceeds from one car sale a month, and by tightening his own belt.

The kids do question why he has anything to do with cops. Lewis admits he's lost friends over it. "One of the things we explain to them is that whether it's the police department, the judicial field, the economic or political arenas, we need to start being a part of those arenas. We owe it to ourselves to be more in life, give more to our culture. We can't keep putting ourselves in a box."

To replicate the concept at the Gordon Center, a group of mostly North Side



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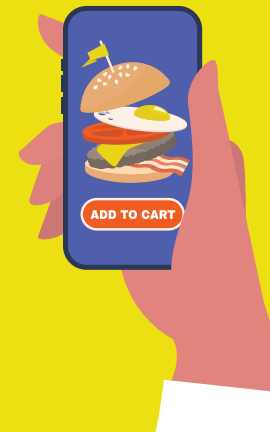
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women have weekly planning meetings over Zoom. Lately they've been trying to establish a cohesive vision for the center and compile a list of youth groups willing to invest as tenants.

They have just the germ of an idea, but to inspect the building with an architect and get anywhere after that, they'll need the support of the Minneapolis Public Schools, which has proven elusive over the years.

In 2014, MPS and the U of M held a signing ceremony for an early literacy center in the courtyard between Gordon and neighboring Willard School, another vacant building most recently used by Minneapolis Police for tactical exercises. An architectural firm was hired and illustrations drawn up, but then the project mysteriously withered on the vine.

About a year after that, Project Sweetie Pie, an urban gardening organization, asked to lease the Gordon Center. Director Catherine Fleming wanted a place to train young people in culinary arts, and stage vegetable distribution across the North Side. Ange Hwang of Asian Media Access wanted to bring arts and culture programming to the building.

"And we were summarily rejected on that," says Fleming. "They've been consistent with their rejection of different ideas that the community has brought to them without explanation."

In 2018, MPS Chief Operations Officer Karen DeVet told North News that the district didn't want to green-light any of the community proposals before coming up with a master plan for all of its vacant buildings. It still hasn't done that. Two other vacant schools in north Minneapolis—Lincoln Junior High and Hamilton Elementary—host the Minneapolis Urban Robotics Alliance and Minneapolis Police Academy. There's no plan for four others.

"We're not giving it up. [Gordon]'s going to be a youth center," says school board member KerryJo Felder, a proponent of putting all of Minneapolis's vacant schools to use. "Because now, the funny thing that's not so funny is we have to come in and

Miki Lewis, program director of the 8218 Truce Center in St. Paul, uses Black history to mentor young people.

save some kids that we should have saved all along. We needed those early learning centers. We needed those youth centers all over north Minneapolis. We haven't been able to do that, and now we have to save some kids that are pretty much grown up, and it's just horrible."

TAUGHT UP

In mid-September, dozens of Minneapolis Public Schools principals lined up outside the Super USA on Dowling and Fremont Avenues, where 17-year-old Andre Conley had just been shot in the face and killed. His 19-year-old friend was also shot, but the bullet traveled through the right side of his torso and he survived. Another 17-year-old, Jomoy Lee, was charged.

In a video dispatch from the scene, North High Principal Mauri Chantel Melander Friestleben called on Minneapolis to restore order. Not with a "big stick," but with good law enforcement. Whole blocks are overrun with drugs, she said, while cars speed at 70 mph down the street, hitting kids on skateboards.

"We have an opportunity in Minneapolis to try something different, to do something new, and that's to say that we are not going to be held hostage by the voices of a few," said Friestleben.

"You overhear law enforcement in our city right now, and they feel like, 'Well, the City Council doesn't want us, or the people don't want us.' Who, which people? Show me where they're at! Are you talking about the few, some of them that don't even live here? Are you talking about the people that don't have to worry about their children coming to a store like this?"

Early Monday morning, three teenagers aged 13 to 15 died in a high-speed car crash near Dowling and Logan Avenues. They'd been fleeing police in a car stolen from an

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elderly woman when they slammed into a tree. A Mother's Love showed up at the scene shortly after. "Today is a sad day. Kids out joyriding in a stolen vehicle when they should have been on a bus en route to school. So many lives lost. So many families crying," Lisa Clemons said on Facebook.

Students with the Minneapolis Youth Congress—a body of teens created to bring a youth perspective to policy—recently weighed in on how they and their friends are faring after a summer of COVID and violence.

Gisell Ayala-Corral lives in north Minneapolis and recently graduated from Patrick Henry High School. The pandemic canceled prom, graduation, and all her summer plans. Now that crime is rising throughout the city, her parents want her to stay home as much as possible.

"It's been quite stressful and kind of overwhelming, not having an outlet," she says. "Having a youth center could open a lot of doors for youth that otherwise are not available. I feel like it could create a sense of community and belonging, which is kind of hard to find. It won't 100 percent prevent gun violence, but it's definitely a way to reduce the chance of teenagers being shot because they're not out in the streets."

Breanna Kirk, an Edison High School junior who also lives in north Minneapolis, knew Conley, as well as Serenity "CeCe" Shief, a 17-year-old girl shot in the head in August. Kirk's own older brother died this year from complications of a surgery stemming from a gunshot wound. Kirk relays these losses with stony impassivity.

"I can't sit here and be like, 'Here's what you can do to fix it,'" Kirk says. "There's no type of way you can fix it. I look at the gun violence as, it should stop, but how our generation is and how we get taught up, it's all gun violence."

Kirk means both civilian and police violence. She used to look up to cops. Now she doesn't want to be around them.

Victor Martinez, a youth pastor who recently announced his candidacy for the Ward 5 City Council seat, says the group planning the youth center is now writing

DonEsther Morris and Cheryl Anderson, outreach workers with A Mother's Love, advocate turning the Gordon Center into a destination for at-risk youth.

grants and trying to build broader community support by creating a board of representatives from various North Side organizations.

School board chair Kim Ellison pledged her support once they come up with an official proposal, Martinez says. (Ellison did not respond to a request for comment.) When that time comes, they'll ask the district to sell them the building for \$1, the same price offered to Hennepin County for the shelter.

In the meantime, he invited 17-year-old Astrid Elizabeth Loor Espin to be a part of the planning. She attends the General Colin L. Powell Leadership Academy in south Minneapolis and lives over North.

Loor Espin suggested leaving the youth center open-ended, and offering a variety of activities for teens to test the waters. It should be a safe space for bored kids to be with each other even if they don't want to do anything in particular.

Loor Espin attended middle school with Shief. She also knew Mario Sanchez Mendieta, who was shot multiple times and killed outside a market in Powderhorn Park. But she was closer to Eduardo Avila Santiago, a "funny, goofy" Minneapolis boy shot in the head in Burnsville. All three were 17, and killed within a month of each other.

It's a lot to process, especially when no one's been arrested and there's no telling why they were murdered. It feels like it could happen to anyone at any time. Add the mysterious theft of her car and the weekly drive-by shootings that sound like thunder when they're close, and she can barely sleep.

"It's kind of gotten me paranoid when I go to different places with a lot of teens, or where I know there's gun violence. I don't know, a lot of our friends are like, 'Who's next? Are we next?' It's just traumatic. We're still trying to process it."

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Twin Cities Horror Fest

BRUCE BISPING

In the before time, the only common thread between a horror festival and a holiday classic would be that they are both popular events offered on a Twin Cities stage. But post-plague outbreak, these kinds of announcements just kinda go together.

While other major annual productions and theater festivals try to figure out WTF they're going to do this year, these two enduring events have decided to continue on, virtually.

First, let's start with the freaks: Now in its ninth year, the Twin Cities Horror Festival has grown exponentially in popularity each season, bringing theatergoers a variety of scares ranging from subtle, psychological pieces to full-on bloodbaths.

This year, the show goes on... via YouTube Live.

"Moving the festival online comes with a set of new challenges," says co-artistic director Nissa Nordland. "With the virtual medium, we constantly evaluate how to make a terrifying experience

TRADITIONS GO VIRTUAL

Twin Cities Horror Fest, Guthrie's *A Christmas Carol* move online

BY JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

translate through the screen. How do we scare you from the safety of your own couch?"

You'll be able to discover how they answered these questions if you check in each evening from Thursday, October 29, through Saturday, October 31, when a total of five new works will premiere over the course of the three nights. This includes a reading of *The Retelling*, a work-in-progress musical slated to fully launch at the 2021 festival.

As for tickets, the event is moving to a pay-as-able model.

"We chose a 'PWYC' model to reduce barriers and increase access to our online

platform," says Ryan Lear, executive director at TCHF. "With this model, 80 percent of festival ticket and pass sales will go directly to the producing artists creating this unique work."

You can throw them a bone and find more details over at tchhorrorfestival.com.

When the pandemic hit, Guthrie Theater announced that it was planning for a three-play season in 2020-21. Since then, its stages have been mostly dark, save for an online benefit this summer.

But now? A small glimmer of hope: The theater's annual production of *A Christmas Carol*, now in its 46th year, is returning as a dramatic reading to

be enjoyed via computer.

Guthrie's artistic director, Joseph Haj, will play adapter and creative director, along with film director E.G. Bailey and four Twin Cities actors. The piece will be pre-recorded to stream during the holiday season.

"One of Charles Dickens's favorite ways to spread holiday cheer was to perform dramatic readings of his beloved ghost story for audiences near and far," the announcement release explains. "With a trusty, self-edited copy of his novella in hand, Dickens took Scrooge's tale of transformation on the road for decades, standing at podiums and entertaining large crowds of devoted fans from London to Boston and beyond."

So, think of it as an old tradition renewed via technology. Added bonus: You can enjoy all the hot chocolate or mulled wine you'd like without those spendy in-person bar fees. *A Christmas Carol* will stream on demand December 19-31. Tickets are on sale right now online, and cost only \$10 per household. [👉](#)

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BY SARAH BRUMBLE

Unless you've had your head under a rock for the last week (or year) or so, there's a good chance you're concerned about what the future has in store for you, your loved ones, and society at large.

Good news first? That's a reasonable feeling to have right now, and you're not crazy. Good job! And for the middling-to-sketchy brief: If you haven't already, it's probably time to wave goodbye to the comfortable status quo. Our nightmare pandemic aside, denying climate change is no longer an option; raging fires, flooding in myriad forms, and a scramble for resources necessary to farm on an ever increasing scale (to name a few) will beget food and usable land shortages.

While we gallop ever closer toward that future, it seemed prudent to call up a pair of visionaries who've been bringing a more sustainable option within our reach—if we're willing to rise to it and crunch down on it: Claire and Chad Simons, the wife-and-husband co-owners of 3 Cricketeers, Minnesota's first farm raising crickets for human consumption.

Forming a multimillion-head herd of crickets was an idea that Chad (who'd studied environmental law) pitched Claire (a maternity ward nurse) on one of those late nights while she was watching Netflix. He touted the very real benefits from a sustainability standpoint, that they use a fraction of the feed, water, and land of traditional livestock farms.

Claire's passion for nutrition latched onto the benefits of the product they ended up raising in their basement in the beginning. Crickets pack twice as much protein as beef, more calcium than milk, more iron than spinach, and promote gut health via prebiotic fiber. About a year ago, backed by research from Purdue, the Simonses even discovered their flock's promising abilities to address diabetes and hypertension.

Their experiment has long since expanded beyond their basement, and now encompasses a 3,500-square-foot "urban farm" in St. Louis Park. They employ a farm manager, wrangle interns, and make use of an industrial kitchen to churn out USDA-certified direct-to-market products like cricket cookies or roasted and flavored snack bags of the nutrient-dense hoppers.

"We hit poultry-grade standards, which is probably overkill," says Chad.

For the duration of their six-week lifespan, the crickets (of the tropical banded variety) are fed a mixture of finely ground 100



3 Cricketeers' roasted, BBQ snack bois

SARAH BRUMBLE

percent organic chicken feed, spent grain from La Doña Cervceria, and clippings from neighboring SLP Seeds.

When it's time for them to exit this plane, each batch of 80,000 is put into a big freezer Chad jokingly calls the Iron Maiden, where they begin to zonk out at 50 degrees for the long goodnight.

"When we're able to go to a farmers market and really talk to people and have them try it and say, 'Okay, this is a cookie. You can't even taste it,' then that's really easy," says Claire. She attributes the increase in both interest and sales to, basically, the pandemic, which has given their would-be customer base time to educate themselves on what they've been saying all along: Crickets are a superfood, and you *could* slip them into baked goods without anyone being the wiser.

"Before, when we would talk about what we did—I mean, really people would just say, 'Gross. Why? Just eat a hamburger.' And

now it is really different with everybody baking, too," she says.

"There really is a market for this. Interest in the last year compared to the three before has exponentially grown," says Chad. He references Seattle Mariners fans so fervently latching onto a Safeco Field vendor's chili lime grasshoppers in the first three games of the 2019 MLB season that a per-game cap had to be instituted.

Like so many other secrets most of the world is in on—health care that serves its populace, paid maternity leave, a leader who speaks in full sentences and heeds the advice of scientists—the contemporary American monolith is behind the times when it comes to incorporating these eminently sustainable, super snackable insects into our diet.

Enter chef Gustavo Romero, most recently of northeast Minneapolis's Nixta Tortilleria, whom Claire is quick to credit

with "teaching us what a cricket should taste like." The Cricketeers and Romero found their interests aligned after a coursed Pre Hispanic Insect Dinner hosted at Costa Blanca Bistro got everyone talking about their passions.

For Romero, offering his expertise was a collision of his upbringing and culinary training.

Moving to the United States from Mexico as a 17-year-old ended what had been the "totally natural" part of his diet up until that point, "because it wasn't something that was normal here." Then culinary school instilled him with a dedication to sustainability, similar to Chad's focus.

"If we keep doing things the way that we're doing, eventually there's not gonna be space, so we're not gonna be able to do it, or we're gonna have to put so many hormones into these animals so we can supply everybody," he says.

So Romero ended up guiding the Minnesotans. "We realized that there was something missing, so we started working on the process while [the crickets] were growing," he says. "We changed their diet, and now we have a product that is very... it's like a blank canvas, right?" What's left of the little guys now is tons of nutrients, big crunch, and whatever flavor is *designed* to go on top; nothing more.

Though he sometimes offers insects on the sly at Nixta, the chef has been working on an idea for how to incorporate 3 Cricketeers into the restaurant's next phase: cricket tortillas.

"I talked to a lot of people that exercise a lot and they're always looking for, like, a protein boost for workouts. They're super excited because they're like, 'Sometimes we just want normal food!' And I think that's what people need. A lot of times people go really far away from what food is to be able to get protein," says Romero.

"It's really cool," the chef gushes. "We just need to be careful, because if we put in a lot, it will become a very expensive product, and we still want to have something that is accessible."

Until that time, if you've caught the cricket bug (sorry, pouches of 3 Cricketeers' protein powders, cookies, and packs of the crunchy guys themselves (in flavors like curry, BBQ, and chili lime) are available for purchase online through the farm's website, as well as at the Linden Hills farmers market and Munkabeans in Hopkins.

Your kitchen awaits your next baking project—and it's shaping up to be a long winter, ripe for experimentation. **Q**



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Dan Newton and friends perform an eclectic mix full of French flair, Latin heat, and Bohemian attitude. 7:30-9 p.m. \$25-\$30. Crooners Supper Club, 6161 Highway 65 NE, Minneapolis.

SUPER DUTY

Live concert. 5:30-8:30 p.m. \$5. Day Block Brewing Company, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Minneapolis.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

BRYAN DUNCAN IN CONCERT

8-10 p.m. \$40. Heart of the City Music Factory, 2665 Fourth Ave., Anoka.

CLASSIC AMERICAN ROCKERS

7-8:30 p.m. \$30-\$30. Crooners Supper Club, 6161 Highway 65 NE, Minneapolis.

MICHAEL SHYNES ALBUM RELEASE SHOW

Celebrating the digital release of 'Cinematic Love' with an outdoor show. 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$30. Fountain Hill Winery & Vineyard, 731 County Road 30 SE, Delano.

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With Madd Company. 8-11 p.m. \$18-\$28. Medina Entertainment Center, 500 Highway 55, Medina.

THE BRAD RAYSINS

6-9 p.m. \$8. Day Block Brewing, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Minneapolis.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

BIG FAT LOVE: JOHN PRINE BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE SHOW

Virtual concert presented by the Hook and Ladder. 8 p.m. 12 a.m. \$15. Minneapolis. 612-345-7166.

BRYAN DUNCAN IN CONCERT

8-10 p.m. \$40. Heart of the City Music Factory, 2665 Fourth Ave., Anoka.

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Halloween-themed live music and costume contest all for a good cause. 6-11 p.m. \$10-\$30. Theodore Wirth Regional Park Wirth Beach House, 3200 Glenwood Ave., Minneapolis.

HUNNY BEAR

A socially distanced live music and dinner show. 6-8 p.m. \$17. Granada Theater, 3022 Hennepin Ave. S., Minneapolis.

LITTLE SAINTS FALL FEST

An outdoor performance with the Teddy Bear Band. 9:30-11 a.m. Free. Our Lady of Grace Catholic School, 5071 Eden Ave., Edina.

SHERWIN LINTON WITH PAM AND THE COTTON KINGS

A salute to Johnny Cash. 2-3:30 p.m. \$25-\$30. Crooners Supper Club, 6161 Highway 65 NE, Minneapolis.

THE NEW STANDARDS

7-8:30 p.m. \$35-\$40. Crooners Supper Club, 6161 Highway 65 NE, Minneapolis.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

ARNE FOGEL PRESENTS THIS TIME I'M SWINGIN'

A tribute to the classic Dean Martin album. With Rick Carlson. 5:30-7 p.m. \$20. The Dunsmore Jazz Room, 6161 Highway 65 NE, Minneapolis.

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Traditional Spanish songs and Spanish rock. 3-4:30 p.m. \$20. Englewood Underground, 1654 Englewood Ave., St. Paul.

LISSIE: AN AUTUMN ESCAPE

Live outdoor concert. 3-6 p.m. and 7-11 p.m. \$50. Icehouse, 2528 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis. 612-276-6523.

THE NEW STANDARDS

7-8:30 p.m. \$35-\$40. Crooners Supper Club, 6161 Highway 65 NE, Minneapolis.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

LISSIE: AN AUTUMN ESCAPE

Outdoor live concert. 7 p.m. \$50. Icehouse, 2528 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis. 612-276-6523.

READINGS AND LECTURES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

FALL 2020 VISITING WRITERS SERIES: ALISON BECHDEL

The author of the bestselling graphic novels 'Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic' and 'Are You My Mother?: A Comic Drama' gives a presentation via Zoom. Visit twin-cities.umn.edu for more info. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

GRAYWOLF LITERARY SALON: CONVERSATIONS FROM HOME

A virtual Zoom talk centered on home, language, and imagining a better world, featuring authors Natalie Diaz, Roy G. Guzman, Khaled Mattawa, and Kevin Young. Find details at graywolfpress.org. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

SCOTT CARPENTER

The author presents his new book, 'French Like Moi: A Midwesterner in Paris' in conversation with Lorna Landvik. Register online at nextchapterbookseller.com. 7-8 p.m. Free.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

MARLA KLEIN: THE METAMORPHOSIS PROJECT

The photographer celebrates the release of her fine art book, 'The Metamorphosis Project,' documenting gender transition and expression in their many forms and stages. More info at metamorphosisproject.photo. 6-7:15 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

OPUS & OLIVES: A BENEFIT WITH FRIENDS VIRTUAL GALA

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>> By Rob Breznys

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19): “A person’s best ally is someone who takes care of herself,” says actress Susan Clark. I heartily agree. The people with whom you can cultivate the most resilient bonds and most interesting synergy are those who have a high degree of self-sufficiency—those who take rigorous responsibility for themselves and treat themselves with tender compassion. In the coming weeks, Aries, I think it’s especially important for you to emphasize relationships with allies who fit that description. Bonus! Their exemplary self-care will influence you to vigorously attend to your own self-care.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20): According to my reading of the astrological potentials, the coming weeks will be an excellent time for you to take a *vacation in reverse*. What’s that? It’s when you devote yourself to renewing and reinvigorating your relationship with the work you love. You intensify your excitement for the vocation or job or long-term quest that teaches you important life lessons. You apply yourself with sublime enthusiasm to honing the discipline you need to fulfill the assignments you came to earth to accomplish.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20): “If you are not having fun you are doing something wrong,” said comedian Groucho Marx. He was exaggerating so as to drive home his humorous point, but his idea contains some truth—and will be especially applicable to you in the immediate future. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you have a temporary exemption from feeling frantically dour and unpleasantly dutiful. As crazy as the world is right now, you have a cosmic mandate to enjoy more playtime and amusement than usual. The rest of us are depending on you to provide us with doses of casual cheer.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22): “Leave the door open for the unknown, the door into the dark,” writes Cancerian author Rebecca Solnit, adding, “That’s where the most important things come from.” I think this is good advice for you in the coming weeks. What exactly does it mean? How and why should you do what she advises? My first suggestion is to reframe your conception of the unknown and the dark. Imagine them as the source of everything new; as the place from which the future comes; as the origin of creative changes. Then instruct your imagination to be adventurous as it explores brewing possibilities in the dark and the unknown.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): “If something comes to life in others because of you, then you have made an approach to immortality,” wrote author Norman Cousins. Whether or not you believe the “immortality” part of his formulation, I’m sure you understand how fabulous it is when you help activate beauty and vitality in someone. You may even feel that inspiring people to unleash their dormant potential is one of the most noble pleasures possible. I bring these thoughts to your attention, Leo, because I suspect that you now have exceptional power to perform services like these for your allies, friends, and loved ones. I dare you to make it one of your top priorities.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): “The messiah will come when we don’t need him any more,” said author Franz Kafka. In that spirit, and in alignment with current astrological omens, I will tell you that the precise help you wish you could attract into your life will show up as soon as you make initial efforts to provide that help to yourself. Here are some additional nuances: The gift or blessing you think you need most will be offered to you by fate once you begin giving that gift or blessing to yourself. A rescuer will arrive not too long after you take steps to rescue yourself. You’ll finally figure out how to make practical use of a key lesson as you’re teaching that lesson to someone you care for.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Libran author Ursula K. Le Guin said that we don’t just naturally know how to create our destinies. It takes research and hard work. “All of us have to learn how to invent our lives, make them up, imagine them,” she wrote. “We need to be taught these skills; we need guides to show us how. If we don’t, our lives get made up for us by other people.” I bring this to your attention, Libra, because the coming weeks will be an excellent time to upgrade and refine your mastery of these essential powers. What can you do to enhance your capacity to invent your life? Which teachers and information sources might be helpful?

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In 1984, hip hop group Run-DMC was the first to achieve a gold record in their genre, meaning they sold more than 500,000 albums. Their next album sold over a million. They were pioneers. In 1986, legendary producer Rick Rubin encouraged them to do a remake of “Walk This Way,” a song by the hard rock band Aerosmith. The members of Run-DMC didn’t want to do it; they felt the tune was in a genre too unlike their own. But Rubin eventually convinced them, and the cross-pollination was phenomenally successful. The Run-DMC-meets-Aerosmith collaboration launched a new genre that sold very well. The song was later voted into the Grammy Hall of Fame. In this spirit, and in accordance with current cosmic rhythms, I urge you to try a bold hybrid or two yourself. Scorpio: blends of elements or influences that may seem a bit improbable. They could ultimately yield big dividends.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You Sagittarians periodically go through phases when you specialize in stirring up fresh intuitions. I mean, you’re always one of the zodiac’s Intuition Champions, but during these special times, your flow becomes an overflow. You have a knack for seeking and finding visions of the interesting future; you get excited by possibilities that are on the frontiers of your confidence. From what I can tell, your life in recent weeks has been bringing you these delights—and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Take maximum advantage. Aggressively gather in the gifts being offered by your inner teacher.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Calling on my expert knowledge of healing language and imaginative psychology, I have formulated a mantra for you to use in the next six weeks. I suggest you say it five times after you wake up, and again at mid-day, and before dinner, and before sleep. It should help keep you intimately aligned with the dynamic groove that the cosmos will be conspiring to provide for you. For best results, picture yourself as glowing inside with the qualities named in the mantra. Here it is: *StrongBrightFree ClearBoldBrisk DeepNimbleKind AdroitSteadyWarm*.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The Grammy Museum in Los Angeles features displays that extol the musicians who’ve won Grammy Awards over the years. A few years ago, a distinctly unfamous musician named Paz Dylan made professional-looking fake posters touting his own magnificent accomplishments, and managed to sneakily hang them on the museum walls. They remained there for a month before anyone noticed. I’m going to encourage you to engage in similar gamesmanship in the coming weeks, Aquarius. It’ll be a favorable time to use ingenuity and unconventional approaches to boost your confidence and enhance your reputation.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): “Relationships never stop being a work in progress,” writes author Nora Roberts. That’s bad news and good news. It’s bad news because even for the most loving bond, you must tirelessly persist in the challenging task of reinventing the ways the two of you fit together. It’s good news because few activities can make you more emotionally intelligent and soulfully wise than continually reinventing the ways the two of you fit together. I bring these thoughts to your attention because the coming weeks will be a fertile time for such daunting and rewarding work.

freewillastrology@freewillastrology.com
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CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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THE WORD ON THE STREET
BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

- 1 Checked out, as a joint
6 Island where Aloha Beer is brewed
10 With 28-Down, it can check for COVID
14 Bullies dish it out
15 Hair transplant piece
16 Verse foot
17 Brewer of Old Style beer
18 Sign that your baby is growing up fast?
20 General who lent his name to some chicken
21 Band that’s big in Japan
23 Miracle on Ice team
24 Long-lasting tang?
29 With 52-Across, genre of music that uses the slang in the theme answers

- 31 Temporary tattoo inks
32 Dir. in geocaching
33 “___ a feature, not a bug!”
34 It’s a plus
35 “Get on your feet”
37 Mutter paneer sphere
38 Skirmish between two boxers?
41 League that played their 2020 games in the Disney Bubble
44 Kunta Kinte’s novel
45 Viking stories
49 Collagist Jean
50 The night before
51 2015 Masters winner Jordan
52 See 29-Across

- 53 Just unpeeled Edam?
55 Monorail vehicle
57 Phrase said when the penny drops
58 Former TV ministry
59 Put a steak on ice?
63 Like some voices
65 Party suffix
66 Message from a Galaxy far, far away
67 Balance bike alternative
68 Treat that some dunk
69 Instruments with G-C-E-A tunings
70 Class about crabs

Down

- 1 Typing test?
2 Makes ashamed
3 Persuades to commit perjury
4 “Friends” finale?
5 Bomb part
6 Relating to the eye
7 Stand-up comic Macofsky
8 Friendly squeeze
9 “WHY WHY WHY?!” gruntwise
10 Unleashes the hounds
11 Aircraft carrier, e.g.
12 “Eh? Eh?”
13 Commerce overseeing org.
19 Day of the wk. you supposedly eat tacos
22 They go both ways
25 Linear, briefly
26 Reads someone the riot act
27 Some E.B. White

- characters, for short
28 See 10-Across
30 Free commercial, in short
35 “As ____, so below”
36 Hannibal’s transports
39 Attendee
40 LGBT rights activist Windsor
41 “I’ll pass”
42 Fraternity member
43 Give notice to
46 Sink
47 Gambled
48 Like peanuts and crabs
51 Sr. or soph’s spot
53 “We’ve reached peak 2020 and everything sucks,” in three letters
54 Handles, as on épées
56 Voice higher than tenor
59 Corp.’s money man
60 A/C measurement
61 Melodramatic cry after seeing a pest
62 PC extension for some apps
64 “There ____ known knowns”

Last Week’s Answer

C	H	E	M	L	A	B		S	E	V	E	N	U	P
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C	A	T	H	A	I	R	S	I	C	K	N	E	S	S
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SAVAGE LOVE

Quickies

My friendship with my ex
is ruining my life



Dan Savage

I was dumped in August by a guy I was seeing for 10 months. He told me that he wants to work on himself and “needs to be selfish” right now. Since then, we have spoken every day, shared numerous dinners, and gone on hikes. Our friendship is killing me. With him I hold it together. Away from him I cry all the time. I’ve started seeing a therapist and I’m on medication. I’m trying to be mature about the breakup and match his level of “coolness” but it’s destroying me. My friends tell me that I should stay away from him, allow some time to pass, and reassess. But the thought of losing him is almost as bad as the thought of keeping him in my life.

SIMPLY HEARTBROKEN AND TALKING TO EX
REALLY EXTENDING DEPRESSION
P.S. I should also mention that I ended a 10-year relationship for the opportunity to date him.

“Hey, Dan, what I’m doing is making me miserable—should I stop?”

Yes, SHATTERED, you should stop. Your friends are giving you excellent advice: stay away from this guy for at least a year—don’t talk on the phone (with him), don’t share meals (with him), don’t go on hikes (with him)—and then see how you feel after you’ve talked, shared meals, and gone on hikes with other people. It’s always nice when exes are friends, MTP, but it’s not an easy pivot and it can’t be executed instantly. And the transition to friendship is always much harder for the person who was dumped—because of course it is—and it’s even harder when a selfish dumper accepts or demands the kind of attention and emotional support from the dumpee that the dumper is longer entitled to. P.S. If you ended a 10-year relationship to date someone, then that 10-year relationship needed to end. If your ex-boyfriend implored you to end that 10-year relationship and ten months later dumped you to “work on himself” and then did everything in his power to keep you all to himself even after dumping you, then that “friendship” needs to end too. At least for the time being.

My name is a variation on “John Smith.” I met a woman and she liked me but then she did a cheapo background check on me and found a “John Smith” who had committed felonies—including assaulting a

high school principal—and ended things with me. I am not that “John Smith” and I am innocent of these crimes! She had every reason to trust me: we met at my house and she viewed the premises without incident. What do I do?

NOT THAT GUY

You had this woman over to yours, NTG, and she viewed the premises without incident. Okay... so you didn’t rape or kill her when she dropped in and that speaks to the absolute bare fucking minimum of your character. But it doesn’t obligate her to keep seeing you. If you can prove you’re not John Smith, High School Principal Assaulter, and she doesn’t care, NTG, then there’s some other reason doesn’t want to see you again. (Was there a MAGA hat on the premises?) But whatever her real reason is/real reasons are, you’ve been given a “no.” And like everyone else, NTG, you have to take “no” for an answer even when it feels unfair or arbitrary.

I’ve been with my boyfriend for almost five years and everything is amazing except that he sees his ex-girlfriend when I’m not around. He says she wants to meet me but he never wants to meet up with her when I’m with him. Their “dates” are becoming more frequent. She’s a single mom and he has expressed to me that he wants to be in her son’s life. My feelings of discomfort are escalating and I’m having trouble believing him when he says he wants me to meet her. When I bring this up, he gets angry and says I’m being too emotional. Am I being a crazy jealous girlfriend? I need some help. I want to be a better person. Should I reach out to his ex-girlfriend directly since my boyfriend refuses to make it happen? Or do I bail on the relationship? I feel that uncomfortable.

EX-GIRLFRIEND LOOMS OVER EVERYTHING

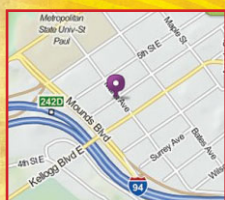
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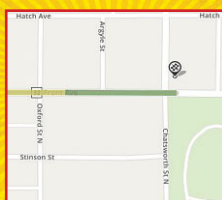
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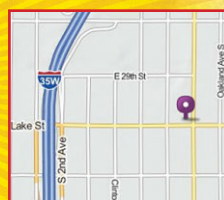
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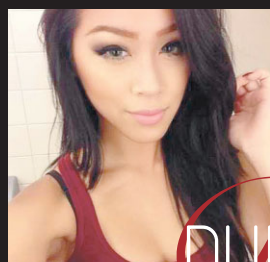
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 In order to support community needs created by the Coronavirus outbreak, HandsOn Twin Cities has created a special Volunteer Hub with opportunities and guidelines for volunteering.

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Public Service Announcement

HCMC is part of a national research study that will see if high dose oxygen given under pressure can help people age 16-65 with severe traumatic brain injury. This treatment is also known as hyperbaric oxygen treatment. The goal of the study is to identify the best way to deliver high dose oxygen under pressure so that severe traumatic brain injury patients can recover with less disability. Because the experimental treatment must be given quickly, patients 16 to 65 years old may be enrolled without informed consent. All patients will receive standard care for their traumatic brain injury. For more information, or to learn how to opt out, visit hobittrial.org. For questions or comments, please contact hobit@hhrinstitute.org <http://bit.ly/HOBITCommunitySurvey>

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Seeking MARIJUANA USERS

The University of Minnesota is seeking men and women ages 23-55 who are regular marijuana users for a research study. Participants will attend two visits and complete a series of surveys, computer tasks, and provide blood, urine and saliva to look at cognition and stress response.
 Participants will be paid.
For more information
 please call the study staff at 612-624-5377

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